



BUFFER OHIO

CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

NOMINATION INFORMATION

The Buffer Ohio Program is an awards program co-sponsored by 14 different organizations to recognize outstanding examples of promotion and/or application of conservation buffer practices on the Ohio Landscape. **Conservation buffer practices include grass filter strips, riparian tree plantings, windbreaks, wetland restorations, and sod waterways.** They are an integral part of the conservation effort to protect and enhance Ohio's valuable soil, water, plant and animal resources.

Because these practices are such a critical part of protecting Ohio's natural resources, the Buffer Ohio Partners have chosen to recognize and honor those that are leading the way in applying conservation buffers on the land across the State of Ohio. **Awards will be presented annually in each of three different categories as follows:**

1. **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARDS**
2. **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**
3. **GROUP AND ORGANIZATIONAL AWARDS**

Award winners will be announced and recognized at a statewide meeting, and also receive a combination of cash, prizes, and/or merchandise. The estimated value of the awards will range between \$500 and \$750 each.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations for the 2002 Buffer Ohio Awards shall be submitted on an official Buffer Ohio Application form available from local Soil and Water Conservation District offices. Anyone may make a nomination for the awards and self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations shall meet the eligibility criteria established for each award category. **Completed nominations shall be mailed to the Buffer Ohio Program, c/o The Ohio Corn Growers, and postmarked no later than September 30, 2002. (SWCD category nominations due June 30th).**

Sponsoring Organizations Include:

Ohio Corn Growers Association
ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
ODNR Division of Wildlife
National Conservation Buffer Council
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Farm Service Agency

Ohio Soybean Association
Pheasants Forever
Lake Erie Buffer Team
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
ODNR Division of Forestry
Ohio Wetlands Foundation
The Nature Conservancy



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Eligibility Information and Rules

1. Nominations for fiscal year 2002 (October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002) shall be submitted on an official Buffer Ohio nomination form for the appropriate category. Anyone may make a nomination for the award and self-nominations are accepted. Completed nominations for the fiscal year 2002 Individual Awards and Group/Organizational Awards shall be mailed to:

Buffer Ohio
c/o The Ohio Corn Growers Association
1100 East Center Street
Marion, Ohio 43302

Nominations shall be postmarked no later than September 30, 2002. (SWCD category is due June 30th, 2002)

2. Individual nominees shall be 18 years or older, own land or be actively involved in managing, farming, or caring for land that is located within Ohio.
3. Group or organizational nominees may be nonprofit organizations, units of governments, corporations, companies, associations, watershed groups, or other similar organizations that are actively involved in promoting and/or applying conservation buffer practices.
4. Individual employees of any of the sponsoring partner organizations, including any USDA or local Soil and Water Conservation District Employee, or members of their immediate family, are ineligible to receive Buffer Ohio Awards in the Individual Awards Category.
5. A selection committee composed of five to six members from the Buffer Ohio Partners will evaluate the nominations and select the Buffer Ohio Award Recipients. Decision of the selection committee and the Buffer Ohio Partners is final.
6. Those selected will be recognized at a statewide meeting of one of the conservation partners. Buffer Ohio Awardees consent to having interviews, photographs, accomplishments, etc. used in Buffer Ohio News Releases and Informational Activities.
7. All nominees agree to abide by all Buffer Ohio rules and eligibility criteria and to accept the decision of selection committee as final.
8. Buffer Ohio will adhere to the non-discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines of all the participating partners and will be an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider. Buffer Ohio will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status.



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AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Individual Awards Division – Year 2002 Awards

Nomination Deadline September 30, 2002

Nominee(s) _____ **Address** _____

Phone _____

Attach a one- to two-page (maximum) narrative description of the nominee's accomplishments.
Address the following questions:

1. Describe the conservation buffer accomplishments which the nominee has applied to the land. (Types of practices, quantities, scope and variety).
2. Describe innovation the nominee has demonstrated in his or her conservation buffer activity.
3. Explain how the nominee has shown conservation buffer leadership and been involved in conservation buffer information, public education or outreach activities.

Include pictures, maps, aerial photos, news clippings or other informational material, which will help explain and support the accomplishments. Return this nomination form (with the completed nomination material attached) to **Buffer Ohio Awards Program, c/o The Ohio Corn Growers, 1100 East Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302.**

Signature of Person Making Nomination

Evaluation Criteria

Individual award nominations will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

♦ Extent/Acreage (scope and size of practices)	30%
♦ Level of Permanence (forestry, wetlands or easement)	20%
♦ Variety of Kinds of Practices and/or Techniques	15%
♦ Public Education Activities	15%
♦ Quality of Applied Practices (Tree Survival & Maintenance)	10%
♦ Use of Innovation and Innovative Practices	10%



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AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Group or Organizational Awards Division
Year 2002 Awards

Nomination Deadline September 30, 2002

Nominee(s) _____ Address _____

Phone _____

Attach a one- to two-page (maximum) narrative description of the group or organization's accomplishments. Address the following questions:

1. Describe the conservation buffer accomplishments which the nominee has either applied to the land or encouraged or assisted others to apply to the land. (Include types of practices or incentive programs, quantities, scope and variety of efforts).
2. Describe innovation the nominee has demonstrated in applying or promoting conservation buffer practices.
3. Explain how the nominee has shown conservation buffer leadership and been involved in conservation buffer information, public education or outreach activities. Explain if the nominee has assisted in funding for others to apply these practices.

Attach pictures, maps, publications, news clippings or other informational material, which will help explain and support the accomplishments. Return this nomination form (with the completed nomination material attached) to **Buffer Ohio Awards Program, c/o The Ohio Corn Growers, 1100 East Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302.**

Signature of Person Making Nomination

Evaluation Criteria

Group award nominations will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

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| ♦ Planning, goal setting, goal achievement and results | 30% |
| ♦ Public Education activities (number, types, audiences) | 20% |
| ♦ Partnerships developed and/or leadership roles | 15% |
| ♦ Level of activity in permanent type buffers (trees, etc.) | 15% |
| ♦ Innovation and use of unique programs or incentives | 10% |
| ♦ Expected future results of plans or multi-year programs in place | 10% |